

Gifts Hannibal Gives Will

Posted originally on the [Archive of Our Own](http://archiveofourown.org/works/9295472) at <http://archiveofourown.org/works/9295472>.

Rating:	Teen And Up Audiences
Archive Warning:	No Archive Warnings Apply
Fandom:	Hannibal (TV)
Relationships:	Will Graham & Hannibal Lecter , Will Graham/Hannibal Lecter
Characters:	Will Graham , Hannibal Lecter , Minor Characters
Additional Tags:	Gift Giving , Symbolism , Post-Season/Series 02
Language:	English
Series:	Part 1 of Correspondence Gifts
Stats:	Published: 2017-01-12 Words: 252 Chapters: 1/1

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by [Anna_Hopkins](#)

The first gift had been attached to a column of his porch-fence, secured carefully with pale golden ribbon. In the early May breeze, the petals of the rose trembled as much as Will's hands did, reading the letter likewise included.

*Do your thoughts often stray
from the straight road, Will?
Do you find yourself in the trees'
shadows without a trailmarker?
For sometimes you stray into the
grounds of this memory palace, unbidden.*

And later, in the summer, of course Hannibal would remember his birthday. In the morning he found at his doorstep a magnificent bottle of champagne with a white ribbon. It would have been a bit more elegant, had not the ribbon been tied around the glass in the style of tortoise-shell *shibari*.

*May you enjoy
a festive day;
the finer things
can be found
in all sorts
of knots.*

(Underneath the white ribbon, a read thread traced the same pattern, much more delicately.)

Then, when the season struck, Will had to sign for an overnight package from Italy: it opened to reveal a large white truffle, and a recipe card for *carpaccio*. A small note in red ink suggested what cuts of meat might be suitable. He frowned at the implication, and used veal in the recipe, but the truffle shavings were excellent.

Autumn's bounty, indeed.

Will decided not to concern himself overmuch with the issue of the remaining half-a-truffle. By the next day, it had been used up.

Winter brought a sprig of coriander, but that's [another story](#).

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